

Spring 2017

The Reader

Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County
Partners in Building a Literate Community Since 1968



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**Literacy 5K:
New Location!**

Literacy 5K: New Location!

The Literacy 5K Run/Walk will be held in a great new location this year: Schodack Island State Park. On Sunday, May 7, runners and walkers of all ages and abilities are invited to participate in new events and activities, including a guided nature walk, a story walk, and a 5K trail run/walk. All entry fees include the park entrance fee, so participants can stay all day and play! Schodack Island State Park is a beautiful location for hiking, bicycling, canoeing and kayaking. When it's time for lunch, a chicken barbecue hosted by the Schodack Landing Fire Department will be available from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Enjoy a day of fun with family, friends and colleagues to benefit Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County. Register early to take advantage of discounts. To register online, go to www.zippyreg.com.

REGISTER NOW:
www.zippyreg.com

Race Day Schedule

7:45 a.m. **Registration**

8:15 a.m. **Guided Nature Walk (1.5 mi)**
(all ages and abilities)
\$10 pre-registration; \$15 race day

9:00 a.m. **Story Walk**
(ages 8 and under)
suggested \$5 or donation in any amount

9:30 a.m. **Youth Mile**
\$10 pre-registration; \$15 race day

10:00 a.m. **5K Trail Run/Walk**

3/1-5/6 pre-registration \$30;
Race Day \$35

11:15 a.m. **Awards Ceremony**



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Thanks for Making the SCRABBLE Challenge a Success!



Team "We're All Dunn"

We're All Dunn won the Scrabble Challenge for the second time on Sunday, February 19th at St. Michael's Church in Troy.



Team "Scrabble Shoes"

The SCRABBLE Challenge enjoyed the highest turnout yet, as twelve teams came together on Sunday, February 19, at St. Michael's Church Hall, 175 Williams Road, Troy. Teams played three games and the winners were the teams who scored the most total points. The winners were:

First Place: We're All Dunn (2301 points);
Second Place: Jill & George (2032 points);

Third Place: Scrabble Shoes (2023 points). Master of Ceremony Joe Malone introduced each game and led participants in trivia contests.

Please join us in thanking all the participants, St. Michael's Church, the sponsors and

underwriters, the donors who provided raffle items and refreshments, and all the volunteers who helped to plan and run the event.

All proceeds from our special events help Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County to offer free services including tutoring in reading and writing, tutoring in English as a second language, and high school equivalency prep to adults.



Jill & George

Board of Directors Welcomes New Members



Lori Gicewicz and Joy Milne

The LVORC Board of Directors has gained four new members. Amy Carman is an independent consultant who volunteers as a tutor with the Literacy Study Circle at the LVORC office each Wednesday afternoon. Lori Gicewicz is Director of Marketing for Blasch Precision Ceramics. Joy Milne is Controller for Blasch Precision Ceramics. (Blasch has hosted a workplace literacy program for English language learners since 2007.) David Perry (not pictured) is Director of Human Resources for the Renaissance Albany Hotel. We are delighted to welcome all four to our organization.

2016-2017 Board of Directors

Caitlin Stein-Miner, President
Elizabeth Morgan, Secretary
Shay Harrison, Treasurer

Amy Carman
Dan Fennell
Lori Gicewicz
Habiba Mechakra
Joy Milne
David Perry
Christina Ryzner



Amy Carman



Elizabeth Blackwell

Famous Ladies' Tea Celebrates Women and Literacy

The Famous Ladies' Tea returns with nine new notable women on **Sunday, March 26, from 1:00-4:00 PM**. The event will be held once again at the elegant Hilton Garden Inn, 235 Hoosick Street, Troy, N.Y. As tea, coffee, sandwiches and pastries are served, local actresses will visit each table to portray women who left their mark on history.

Tickets are \$45 per person or \$360 for reserved tables of nine. Payment is required in advance, online at www.lvorc.org or by check made payable to LVORC and mailed to LVORC, 1915 Fifth Avenue, Troy, N.Y. 12180

A silent auction will include gift certificates and gift baskets from local restaurants, spas, wellness and beauty providers, booksellers, and more!



Juliette Gordon Low

Meet the Famous Ladies (and the Ladies who Portray Them)

Elizabeth Blackwell / Stephanie Weiss

Willa Cather / Nancy Machold

Juliette Gordon Low / Sue Stierer

Rosa Parks / Evelyn Maclutsky

Miriam / Marie Heller

Frances Perkins / Holly Clark

Teresa of Avila / Marcia Schultz

Hedy Lamarr / Myrna Bernstein

Elizabeth Cady Stanton / Maren Stein



Rosa Parks



Frances Perkins



Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Hedy Lamarr



Willa Cather



Contributions can be made payable to LVORC and sent to:

LVORC
1915 Fifth Avenue
Troy, N.Y. 12180.

Donations can be made online:

www.lvorc.org

Student and Tutor Appreciation Dinner

Monday, April 3, 6:00 p.m.

New Location!

Italian Community Center
1450 Fifth Avenue, Troy

Please bring a dish to share with others.
R.S.V.P. 274-8526



Everybody WINS! Power Lunch is Going Strong

LVORC's Power Lunch program has seen great growth at School 2, increasing from five to twelve mentors during the current school year. This has enabled more children to have the opportunity to be read to and to be mentored. Everybody WINS! Power Lunch improves children's prospects for success in school and in life.

*LVORC's
Everybody
WINS! Power
Lunch
volunteers and
students meet
during lunch to
share a love of
reading.*



Explore Your Puzzle

By Catalina Calico

Life is so much like a puzzle. We have to figure out where the pieces fit. Try to live your life to your fullest because we only have one. Life is so precious. Tomorrow is not promised. Live your moments and move on from the bad memories. Keep the people in your life that bring happiness to your life and try not to dwell on the ones that don't. Never forget to forgive the ones that done you wrong. Take your life as learned experiences to help you make better choices. Take one piece of your puzzle at a time. No matter how big or small it might be. Your puzzle depends how often you want to explore opportunities, make observations, and move forward, accept forgiveness. Everyone has a purpose.

(Catalina is studying with volunteer tutor Kimmy Venter.)



Congratulations to a New Citizen

Jose Adan Ramirez (pictured on left with his family) has become a naturalized citizen of the United States. Volunteer tutor, Cheryl Reeves, helped him to prepare for the interview and test. Mr. Ramirez took the oath of citizenship on February 17, 2017.



Interfaith Story Circle: A Way to Build Community

By Linda Feldmann

Last November, on the night before the election, I was the “guest teller” for the Interfaith Story Circle, a monthly gathering which brings together people of faith who share a love of storytelling. I am not a storyteller by profession but I do love a story well-told, and I have edited the annual publication, **In Their Own Words: Student and Tutor Stories** for LVORC for many years. So, when volunteer tutor Suman Joshi invited me to be a guest teller, I accepted the challenge.

The theme of the evening was stories of immigration and hope. It was a great opportunity to share some of my own stories based on more than a dozen years of teaching English to adult refugees and immigrants. My goal was to speak from the heart and reach out to others who might be interested in helping our learners. Since it was important to me to include someone who could speak from first-hand experience as a refugee, I invited a former learner, Zaw Nay Myo, to tell his own story. (If you'd like to read the transcript, it is included in this year's edition of **In Their Own Words**, which will be available in May.) Both Zaw Nay Myo and I were very appreciative of the opportunity to connect with others in the community who care about the immigrant experience.

My thanks go to Suman Joshi, Claire Nolan, and the other organizers of the Interfaith Story Circle for making it possible for us to participate in this wonderful event.